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Message from the Director

Dear fellow Fulbrighters,

Greetings for the New Year of the Golden Dragon!

The Vietnam Fulbright News is welcoming in the new year with a new look. With the expansion of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam and a rapidly increasing number of alumni in the Fulbright network, we realized that a short newsletter no longer adequately serves the growing Fulbright community in Vietnam.

The newsletter has been expanded and will include an *ALUMNI NEWS* section that will highlight news and stories of interest to returned Fulbrighters. The *FULBRIGHTERS AT WORK* section will highlight the current research that American Fulbrighters are currently conducting in Vietnam.

This month, Nguyen Quoc Vinh shares with us his historical research on national hero Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue and the Tay Son Rebellion. In addition, Roger Ford informs us of what he's doing as lecturer and senior advisor at the Hanoi School of Business.

Also new to the newsletter is the *FULBRIGHT FEATURE* section, which will allow recent and returned Fulbrighters to share in more detail their knowledge and experience. This month, Duong Thi Xuan Dung shares with us her experience on working with Vietnam's small and medium-private enterprises.

Please share your ideas and thoughts with me so we can make this into a newsletter written by Fulbrighters for Fulbrighters. Also, I encourage you to take some time to fill out the *FULBRIGHT SURVEY* on page four to help us serve you better.

In the next few months, I will be travelling around the country to recruit candidates for next year's programs. I hope to meet and chat with many of you during my travels. I am, of course, always looking to you for referrals--you know best who makes a good candidate for the Program.

Best wishes,



Tran Xuan Thao
Director
Fulbright Program in Vietnam

ALUMNI NEWS:

Do Huy Thinh links Vietnamese universities to the world

For many Vietnamese Fulbrighters, entering the private and government sectors has been their chosen path upon their return to Vietnam. Do Huy Thinh, however, has chosen to stay in academia as director for the University of Agriculture and Forestry's Center for Foreign Studies in Ho Chi Minh City.

He chose to stay in academia because of the importance of education for Vietnam. Thinh said, "Initially, I went on the Fulbright Program to study public administration. However, I soon realized that studying education would be more useful to Vietnam. Vietnamese education can learn a lot from other countries' educational systems. We need to build upon best practices in the world and adapt those systems to Vietnam."

Upon his return, Thinh has worked on many exchange programs not only for his university but also for many others, attended international conferences and written numerous articles on education, language, and culture in newspapers and professional periodicals in Vietnam and abroad. For his university, he is setting up an exchange program with California State Universities (CSU), Pomona and Fullerton, in agriculture and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). In addition, he is helping to link other universities within the Vietnam National University system in Ho Chi Minh City with CSU southern campuses in faculty exchange as well as training programs at the Masters level in several fields of study.

Thinh started his work in promoting exchange programs after he came back to Vietnam in 1996, from three years of master and doctoral study in education at the University of Southern California. He was the first Vietnamese Fulbrighter who obtained a Ph.D. from an American university after 1975. When he returned, he resumed his position as director for the Center for Foreign Studies. Thinh said, "I was able to take on many more responsibilities once I returned to my old position because of the knowledge I gained on the Fulbright Program. Besides the new knowledge I gained, networking with professionals and foreign institutions especially those in the United States helped me jump start these joint programs."

Thinh says he is happy with his job. "I am fortunate to work in the field that I studied and have interest in. I hope I will do more in the future to promote understanding and cooperation in education between Vietnam and abroad." He has just finished working on a memorandum of understanding with universities in the United States for a joint studies program with Vietnamese universities.

Harbour View Joint Venture benefits from Fulbright know-how

Since August 1999, the Harbour View Company has benefited from the experience and knowledge of its deputy general director, Nguyen Son Hai. Hai brings knowledge of corporate law and business management to the Harbour View. He said, "As the deputy general director of a joint venture company with four different foreign partners, it is essential I understand the business cultures of all parties. My studies of corporate law on the Fulbright Program gave me a solid understanding of the complexities in coordinating the various partners."

Hai is a Fulbright student who began his Fulbright grant in 1997, at the Chicago-Kent Law School in Chicago, Illinois. Before he started the Fulbright grant, he worked in the Foreign Economic Office, Haiphong branch of the former SCCI, now the Ministry of Planning and Investment. After studying and training rigorously for two years at the Chicago-Kent Law School, he decided to do something different upon his return to Vietnam. Armed with a Master of Law in International Business degree, Hai returned to Vietnam in December 1998 and soon after started to work at the Harbour View.

Although the position he holds now at the Harbour View is not primarily related to law, Hai said, "You must realize that your studies do not end with the Fulbright Program. You must continue learning new skills as well. This continuous learning will make you more adaptable to the changes in society."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Who	What	Where	When
Reception for exchange grantees	All Fulbright grantees and Returned IV's	Hanoi	March 17, 2000
Vietnam Fulbright Conference	All Fulbright grantees and Returned IV's	Hanoi	May 19, 2000

Register for the Vietnam Fulbright Conference!

If you have not registered for the Vietnam Fulbright Conference, please complete the pre-registration form that was included in the January newsletter. If you need another pre-registration form, please call (04) 747-0032, or e-mail a request to: allriverspr@hn.vnn.vn.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fulbright Alumni include Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners, governors and senators, ambassadors and artists, prime ministers and heads of state, professors and scientists, and CEOs. Some notable Fulbrighters who are known around the world for their great work include:

President John F. Kennedy
Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl

U.S. Representative Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

USEFUL INFORMATION:

US Embassy
 7 Lang Ha
 Hanoi, Vietnam
 Tel: (04) 843-1500
 Fax: (04) 843-1510

Public Affairs Section - Hanoi
 6 Ngoc Khanh
 Hanoi, Vietnam
 Tel: (04) 831-4580
 Fax: (04) 831-4601

US Consulate
 4 Le Duan, District 1
 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 Tel: (08) 822-9433
 Fax: (08) 822-9434

Public Affairs Section - HCMC
 9/F, Saigon Centre
 65 Le Loi, District 1
 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 Tel: (08) 821-6400
 Fax: (08) 821-6405

Fulbright Program Website: <http://www.usembassy.state.gov/vietnam/wwwfhfp.html>

SURVEY FOR FULBRIGHT ALUMNI

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam is always striving to better serve the Fulbright community in Vietnam. In order to help us serve you better in the future, we have designed the following survey for Fulbright alumni. Please take some time to complete the following survey. Completed surveys can be sent by fax to: **(04) 747-0033**.

1. In what ways have your Fulbright experience helped you in your present career? (*check all that applies*)

☐ Career advancement ☐ Gain new expertise ☐ Develop network with international experts

2. Before I went to the United States on the Fulbright Program, I worked in:

☐ Private Vietnamese company ☐ SOE ☐ Foreign company
☐ Government ☐ International Organization ☐ Other

3. Presently, I work in:

☐ Private Vietnamese company ☐ SOE ☐ Foreign company
☐ Government ☐ International Organization ☐ Other

4. Would you be interested in more opportunities for informal gathering with other Fulbrighters:

☐ Very interested ☐ Interested ☐ Somewhat interested ☐ Not interested

5. Would you or your company be interested in hosting a Fulbright event?

☐ Very interested ☐ Interested ☐ Somewhat interested ☐ Not interested

6. Please comment on how the Fulbright Program office can better serve you?

FROM YOU:

Have you moved recently? Please write your new contact details here and fax or e-mail to PAS - Hanoi: (04) 831-4601 or fulbrightvn@fpt.vn.

New Address: _____

New telephone: _____

New fax: _____

New E-mail: _____

FULBRIGHTERS AT WORK

Nguyen Quoc Vinh critically re-engages national hero Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue

Emperor Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue, paramount leader of the Tay Son movement at the end of the 18th century, has long occupied the imagination of successive generations of Vietnamese. Not too surprisingly, this national hero now occupies the time and passion of Nguyen Quoc Vinh, a current Fulbright student.

Vinh, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages at Harvard University, started his Fulbright grant in January, 2000 to study the figure of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue in the historical and cultural imagination of the modern Vietnamese nation.

For Vinh, the Tay Son movement was a watershed event which stood on the threshold of a unified Vietnamese nation, coming in the wake of some three centuries of political division, military conflicts, and deepening regional differences. Vinh commented, "Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue brought an end to the old order and has continued to cast a haunting presence over successive regimes and generations. Indeed, many unresolved political as well as cultural tensions and contradictions of modern Vietnam up to the present day can be traced back to the Tay Son period." It is this and other living legacies of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue that has led Vinh to return to Vietnam to study the phenomenon at closer range.

"I've been very fortunate to receive the Fulbright grant to come to Vietnam and immerse myself in the process of how history is written in Vietnam. Being in Vietnam has given me the opportunity to absorb the unfolding history and impact of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue, not just as a historical figure but also as a cultural phenomenon," said Vinh. Since his return to Vietnam, he has been able to engage in dialogue with Vietnamese scholars and intellectuals. Vinh has also traveled to his research subject's homeland in Binh Dinh, sampled the many festivals and commemorative activities dedicated to the national hero, and visited the Quang Trung museum. Vinh enthused, "I am delighted to be able to witness and participate in the living history of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue."

The Fulbright grant is helping Vinh finish the research for his doctoral dissertation, which he hopes to start writing along the way during his time in Vietnam this year.

Fulbright Program welcomes Roger Ford as newest U.S. Scholar

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam received its newest American Scholar this past December when Prof. Roger H. Ford officially received his grant. He is an internationally-recognized management educator, consultant, and author. From 1985 to 1998 he was on the faculty at James Madison University in Virginia, where he was the Zane Showker Professor of Entrepreneurship and a Professor of Management. Currently he is serving full time as a professor and consultant at the Hanoi School of Business, Vietnam National University. His teaching specialties include entrepreneurship, strategic management, long range planning, corporate governance and leadership.

Ford has taught and served as a consultant in Vietnam since 1992 when he led his first group of American university students on a friendship tour to Hanoi, Hue, Danang, and Saigon in 1995. He is currently assigned to the Hanoi School of Business, Vietnam National University, where he is teaching and helping to recruit and train faculty for the school. Ford's children, Cassandra and Ryan are attending Hanoi International School, and his wife Holly is studying Vietnamese and working as a volunteer.

Ford stated, "I am delighted to serve as a Fulbright Senior Scholar, and hope that my work contributes to the future of Vietnam and to the future of educational exchange between Vietnam and the USA." For more about Prof. Ford, visit his website at www.boardroombasics.com.

FULBRIGHT FEATURE:

Fulbrighter Works Toward Vietnam's Economic Development

Vietnamese Fulbrighters who go to study in the United States and return to Vietnam all have a desire to contribute to the construction and development of Vietnam. They are part of the fortunate few who have the opportunity as well as ability to participate in the exchange of knowledge and skills between the two countries. Duong Thi Xuan Dung is one of these exceptional individuals.

Dung is working for the Mekong Project Development Facility (MPDF), a project managed by the International Finance Corporation. MPDF gives assistance to small and medium-private enterprises. Dung's responsibility as an investment officer is to assist entrepreneurs in business planning and sourcing financing.

Dung went on the Fulbright Student Program in 1995, and studied at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. After receiving her MA in international economics and finance in May 1998, she interned with the Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) in Boston, Massachusetts, an experience that would later pay off for her in Vietnam.

Returning to Vietnam, she admits that she was a bit nervous about her job prospects. She started to work as a lecturer at the Fulbright Teaching Center in Ho Chi Minh City. "I wanted to see if being a professor or lecturer was for me," said Dung. After a brief stint teaching at the Center, a friend informed her about the position at the Mekong Project Development Facility.

Commenting on her present job, Dung said, "the operation of MPDF is similar to that of JVS except the former is on a much larger scale. Furthermore, the knowledge and experience I gained in entrepreneurial management, accounting, and finance have benefited me greatly in my current work." She is not the lone Fulbrighter at MPDF. There are four other Vietnamese Fulbrighters currently working on MPDF projects.

Asked to comment on her advice to future Fulbrighters, Dung said, "the Fulbright Program is a fortunate opportunity for anybody. The experience of studying abroad will give you a broader perspective. You may be in a good position before you leave and you may encounter uncertainties in finding a suitable career once you return. However, it is definitely worth trading off your comfortable career now for a chance to improve your knowledge and skills for the future. After some reverse-culture shock and adjustments on returning, you will find that you will achieve much more than what you would have done without the Fulbright experience."